THE

Humble Addrſs

OF THE

VVidow VVhitrowe

TO

King William:

With a

FAITHFUL WARNING

To the

Inhabitants of England,

TO

Haſte and Prepare by True Repentance, and Deep Humiliation, to meet the LORD,

Before His Indignation burns like Fire, and breaks forth into a mighty Flame, ſo that none can quench it.

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THE HUMBLE ADDRESS OF THE VVidow VVhitrowe TO King William, &c.

GOD *SAVE THE KING FOR EVER:* For that is the desire of my Soul to GOD for thee, and for all Mankind, which is the chief end of my Writing to the King at this time: And my humble Petition and Request to the King is, that his delight may be in the Law of the LORD, and in HIS Law to have thy Meditation day and night.

For this was the Word which GOD put into my Heart for thee, when I was going on the Way near *Putny*; and hearing the King was to come that way, I stood still to see him; and whilst I stood still, these were the Words that did rise in my Heart to thee, Oh King.

Blessed is the Man that doth not walk in the Counsel of the Wicked, nor stand in the Way of Sinners, nor sit in the Seat of the Scornful; but his delight is in the Law of the LORD, and in His Law doth he meditate Day and Night; For this is he that shall be as a Tree planted by the Rivers of Water, that will bring forth his Fruit in due season, whose Leaf shall not fade; so that whatsoever he shall do, it shall prosper: but the Wicked are not so, but are like the Chaff which the Wind driveth away.

These were the weighty Words; but I saw not thy Face at that time: But another time, as I was going by

Water, I met thee going to land at *Whitehall*, and our Boat ſtanding ſtill, I felt the power of GOD's Love ſo to thee, that it tranſported my Spirit into a Heavenly Joy; I was drawn forth into Prayer, and theſe were ſome of the Words; *LORD be Thou his Counſellor: LORD be Thou his Directer.* And ſo I departed in this holy Extaſie, making my requeſt to GOD for thee: But after this, I ſaw thee upon *Eaſt-Sheen-Common*, where thou waſt taking thy pleaſure in Hunting: I was much grieved to ſee the King ſpending his precious time in ſuch a vain Exerciſe, in ſuch a day as this, when the Nation lies bleeding, the People wallowing in their Blood of Uncleanneſs, and all manner of Abominations, whoſe Sins are of a Scarlet Dye, and cries aloud in the Ears of the LORD GOD for Vengeance: Oh King! is this a day for Pleaſure, when the Righteous GOD is oppreſſed under the Sins of the People as a Cart is preſſed with Sheaves? I beſeech thee conſider the end of the LORD, in bringing thee into this Nation, was it to do thy own Will, or the Will of Him that ſent thee? For thou haſt lived to ſee ſome of the great Acts of the LORD in this thy day, as others did in the days of old, when one chaſed a thouſand, and five put ten thouſand to flight; yea, how did the Mighty fly before thee, when none perſued them? And if GOD prolong thy days, thou wilt ſee greater things then theſe; for the LORD will work Wonders in this the day of *His* mighty Power, as He did in *Egypt*, and at the Red-Sea; and for this end, to get Himſelf a Name above every Name, to exalt *His* glorious Name in the Earth, that all may know that He is the LORD, and that man is but man: As thou, O King, art a witneſs, that it was not thy Sword, nor thy Might that brought thee hither, but the LORD's own Arm which *He* made bare in the ſight of all. And now I beſeech thee conſider how highly thou art ingaged to the

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LORD for all his Goodneſs; and what wilt thou return to the KING of Eternal Glory, but to love *Him* with all thy Heart and Soul, Strength and Might, and thy Neighbour as thy ſelf; and to do Juſtice, and love Mercy, and to walk humbly with the LORD; for this is the whole Duty of Man, to love GOD and keep his Commandments, to viſit the Widow and Fatherleſs in their Afflictions, and to keep thy ſelf unſpotted from the World; to love our Enemies, to do good for evil, to overcome evil with good; as our bleſſed LORD and Saviour Jeſus Chriſt commanded, *Whatever ye would that men ſhould do unto you, do ye that unto them:* Oh theſe are bleſſed Rules for men to walk by, for the King and his Nobles to put in to practice: Theſe are the Rules that the holy men of GOD gave forth as they were moved by the Spirit of GOD, as the holy Apoſtle ſaith, *That the man of GOD be perfect, and intire, wanting nothing, but furniſhed for every good Work.* And ſaith our LORD and bleſſed Saviour, *Be ye merciful as your Heavenly Father is merciful.* And King *David* ſaith, *LORD with the merciful Thou wilt ſhew Thy Self merciful, and with the pure Thou wilt ſhew thy ſelf pure.* This made *David* call upon GOD ſo earneſtly, to make him pure, even as GOD is pure; and this made him merciful to forgive his Enemies ſo often; for he knew the benefit would return to him again, both from GOD and Man; and as there was great Goodneſs in it, ſo there was great Policy, for it won the Affection of the People, ſo as that there Hearts were bowed to him, as the Heart of one man. And now O King, ſeeing thou art compaſſed about with ſo great a Cloud of Witneſſes, incourage thy ſelf in GOD, as *David* did, and let the Power of the LORD GOD be ſtrong in the King, to throw down Sin, and to root out Wickedneſs out of this Nation: For be it known unto thee, O King, this Nation at this time is fit-

ter for Judgment then for Deliverance; for how doth all manner of Wickedneſs reign, both in Profeſſors and Prophane, for the one is given to their fleſhly Pleaſures, as Drunkenneſs, Feaſtings, Whoredom, and all manner of beaſtly lacivious Talking, Swearing and Lying, Cheating, and all manner of Deceit: It would amaze one to ſee how Youth and little Children are debaucht, their Mouthes filled with Curſing and Swearing, and all manner of wicked Words, as *Dam*, and *Rot them*, and ſuch Helliſh Words; and the Profeſſors of Religion out-ſtrip the Prophane: for O the Deceit, the Double-dealing, Cheating & Couſening: and if their evil ends are not anſwered, then the Malice they are filled with, even ſeeking to deſtroy one another: And the ground wherein all this miſchief grows, is Covetouſneſs, which is Idolatry, and the root of all Evil every one ſeeking themſelves, and not the things of Chriſt, who ſaid, *Ye cannot be my Diſciples, except ye deny your ſelves, and take up my daily Croſs, and follow me*: But inſtead of this, they are become Enemies to the Croſs of Chriſt, *whoſe God is their Belly*, as ſaith the Apoſtle, *whoſe Glory is their Shame, who mind Earthly things*. And is it not a ſhame that men that call themſelves *Chriſtians*, ſhould mind their Honours and Preferments into great Places? Did Chriſt and his Followers leave ſuch a Pattern? Let them bring their Lives to the Life of Chriſt, and ſee how like they are to His; this is the cauſe why they do not profit the people, becauſe their minds are in the Earth; and behold, oh King, what preaching and praying here is in this Land, but how little practiſing? What Fruits are brought forth to GOD by all this praying and preaching? did ever pride abound as it doth now? the holy Scriptures of Truth ſpeaks of the *Jews*, *Iſa.* 3. 16. to the end, when they were departed from the Law of GOD they went a Whoring after the Abominations of

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the *Heathen*, and one of their Whoriſh Inventions was, they made them *Round Tyers like the Moon*; for which the Prophet proclaims the heavy Judgments of GOD againſt them.

But what may we call the Dreſſes of the profeſt Chriſtians of our Time? the Tower of *Babel*, or the Whore of *Babylon's* triple Crown? Oh ye Rebellious Daughters, who have Ears but hear not, Hearts but do not underſtand, that the long Suffering of the *LORD* ſhould lead you to Repentance; Oh ye Proud ſtiff-necked and Rebellious People, do you thus requite the *LORD* for all his kind and gentle dealing, which ſhould humble you in the duſt before Him; ye Rebellious Ones, with what face or pretence of Piety can you appear before the pure and holy *GOD* in your Congregations to worſhip? with your proud Hearts, your ſtaitly Carriages, your lofty looks, your towered Thoughts, thinking you are Gods with your high towered Heads, which makes you look exalted to the Skies, with all the reſt of your rich & gorgious Attires, fitter for the *Heathen* Stage-Players than for *Chriſtians*: I ſay, can you approach before this great and Almighty *GOD*, and not be abaſed and confounded before Him? Know you not that *His* all-ſeeing Eye beholds your Idolatry? and if his MAJESTY looks upon you in Anger, ye are conſumed to nothing, and muſt return to the Duſt from whence ye came, for the Worms to feed on your delicate Carkaſſes, for which your precious time hath been ſpent in taking care for to feed it Voluptuouſly, and to adorn it exceſſively, and then to love and admire it ſo, as to worſhip and adore it: Now which are the greateſt Idolaters, they that worſhip the Sun, Moon and Stars, the glorious Creatures, which repreſent the Glory of *GOD*, or you that worſhip your ſinful Fleſh? Ye great Idolaters, do you think that *GOD* created you for

this

this purpose, to Love your selves, Admire your selves, to Kiss your own Hands, saying to your proud Flesh, I will Honour and Worship thee, thou art my God, (for this know, *his Servants ye are, whom you obey*) and then go and stand in your Idols Temple, to Mock GOD, and bid Defiance to His Spirit of Grace, saying, we are delivered to do all these Abominations!

I speak this to all sorts of Professors, from the highest in profession to the lowest of them that call themselves *Christians*, for the one is as deeply guilty of loving themselves, their own Ways and evil Works of earthly Mindedness and Coveteousness, which is Idolatry; as the Prophain is of their Prophainness: *Oh Everlasting GOD, what Lamentation shall be taken up for both these, which are gone away from thy VVays like lost Sheep!* But oh ye *Idolaters*, who call your selves *Christians*, go you to the Wars of *Jerusalem*, and read there what the LORD did for the wickedness of that People who were call'd *Jews*: & do you think to escape the just Judgments of GOD for your Sins, because you are call'd *Christians*, though out of His Life, No, No, that Covering will be too short in the Day of Account; and though some of you may say, *We have Eaten and Drunk in Thy Presence, and in thy Name done many wonderful VVorks*, yet not persevering to the end of all Iniquity, this will be your Portion, *Depart from me ye Workers of Iniquity, I know you not.*

And now having in some measure cleared my Conscience, by doing as I am commanded, to speak the Truth to my Neighbours, I Expect the same measure from those that are guilty in this matter to cast a Stone at me, as they did at the faithful Servants of the LORD of old: Poor suffering *Jeremiah*, was so sorely tryed, that he said, *Wo is me, my Mother, that thou hast born me, a Man of Contention and Strife to the whole Earth.* And that holy Prophet *Isaiah*, who said to the Scoffers of his time,

Isa.

Isa. 57. 3. *O ye Sons of the Sorceress, the Seed of the Adulterers, &c. On whom have ye jested? upon whom have ye gaped and thrust out your Tongues?* Are not ye Rebellious Children and false Seed *inflamed with Idols?* And my blessed *Saviour*, the Everlasting GOD manifest in Flesh, when He went to Dye upon the Cross for their Sins, they beat Him and mocked Him, saying, *Prophesie who smote Thee*; so I must take my Lot among these blessed Ones, though unworthy; but I will get me into the secret of His Pavilion, under the Shadow of the Almighty, where I shall be hid from the strife of Tongues.

And now, O. KING. I hope thy Goodness will pass by my Trespass in this long Discourse, wherein I have been ingaged to bear my Testimony against the Sins of the people of this Nation, which cries aloud in the Ears of the LORD for Vengeance; and seeing I intend nothing but what is good for the King and his People, I desire to have Liberty to ease my self of the burden which hath lain upon me many years before thou camest into this Nation. For be it known unto the King, I have feared the LORD, and loved the holy Scripture from my Youth up until this day; and in my searching after the LORD I past through many things, which would be too tedious to mention here.

About a quarter of a Year before the *Plague* began in *London*, the LORD commanded me to go to *Bristol*, and call them to Repentance, before the terrible Day of the LORD, and so I went a Foot, and when I came thither, at the Command of GOD I put on Sack-cloth on my Body, and Ashes on my Head; and when I had delivered my Message, the next day I returned towards *London*, where I came to my Husband and Family, in ten Days time, or the tenth Day of my parting from them, leaving a young Child of a Year old that suck'd at my Breast,

and found all things well, my ſelf alſo, ſo well as if I had not gon one Mile, although a weak Woman of Body, and not able to go two Miles without Pain, yet in the ſtrength of the LORD I went almoſt two Hundred Miles a Foot, Glory be to GOD forever.

And after a great Exerciſe of Faſting & Prayer which lay upon me, I was *commanded* to go out of my own Houſe Sack-cloth and Aſhes, and proclaim the terrible Day of the LORD, that ſhould burn as an Oven; crying *Wo, wo, wo unto the Inhabitants of this City, Deſolation upon Deſolation, and Wo upon Wo*; then preſently the *Plague* began in the City; and for too Weeks after the *Plague* began, I thought I ſhould never have had reſt more, for day and night I was like a Woman in ſtrong Travel, all over in racking Pain, I trembled that my Knees ſtruck one againſt another, and as the weight of a Mill Stone upon my Spirit, I cryed bitterly to the LORD, and ſaid, *Oh Righteous LORD, if Thou remove not this burden, then I cannot live*; then the LORD anſwered, and ſaid, *It is the burden of the Iniquities of the Nation I have laid upon thee, and thou muſt bear my Indignation, for thou art their Sign of the Repentance and Humiliation I require of them*: then I knew what the Prophet *Habakkuk* meant when his Lips quivered, his Belly trembled, and rottenneſs had entered his Bones; then I had a little eaſe for the preſent, but the great Exerciſe remained ſtill, going in Sack-cloth and Aſhes, and calling the People to Repentance; but when I had performed my Service, and done all that the LORD required of me; Oh the ſweet melting conſolating Love my Heart and Soul was filled with to GOD for His goodneſs, in giving me ſtrength to do His bleſſed Will, and was ſo humbled, I could have licked the Duſt; then I threw my Body upon the ground, and my Mouth in the Duſt, that GOD might be Exalted;

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then I had Beauty given me for Ashes, yea, the Beauty of His Holiness; I had the Garment of Praise for the Spirit of heaviness, for my Mouth was filled with Praises, and my Heart with Heavenly Halalujah's; I went about doing Good, visiting the Sick, and relieving the Poor; I had the Word of the LORD to many Families, to tell them that their Visitation drew near, calling them to Repentance, Praises be to Him that lives forever; for the *LORD* had not only shed his Love in my Heart, but filled my Heart and Rains so full, that it run as a River to all mankind, for their Redemption out of their fallen Estate; but this encreased my outward Afflictions, and the inward Travel of my Soul, so that I never heard of any that went through the like in this latter Age: I was much exercised with fasting, at the Command of the *LORD* I Fasted three days, and three nights, without any Sustenance; and eat Bread and drank Water six days together, for a Witness against their Feasting and Drinking high Spirits, to keep the *Plague* from their Hearts, but alas, they were Phisitians of no value; but it pleased the LORD to preserve me and mine, at that Time, and for many years after, until it pleased Him to prepare my dear Children for Himself, and then *He* took them out of all the Snares and Temptations of this sinful Life, to their everlasting Joy and His eternal Praise, World without end, *Amen*. Then I enquired of the *LORD* why He took them away in their youth; and He said, *Because* of their Fathers evil Life, and in order for my deliverance to the Work He had called me to; then the *LORD* Commanded me to depart from the Multitude, and from all the concerns of this World, to seek Him apart; to give up Name and Fame, and whatsoever was dear to me in this Life, Body, Soul and Spirit, to serve the *LORD* as he required

quired me, (that was in Fasting and Prayer) which was also to be a sign to the Multitude, of the Worship which the *LORD* required of them; but the Afflictions I went through at that time, is beyond my Tongue of Flesh to declare; then after all this the *LORD* commanded me to go in Sackcloth and shes three days, and to wear Sackcloth three years, which I did, till after the death of King *Charles* the second.

And now, O KING, I am required to visit thee, and to lay before thee what the *LORD* requires of thee, which is, *To do Justly, and to shew Mercy, and to walk humbly with thy GOD, and not to fear Man, whose Breath is in his Nostrils, nor to put thy trust in the Arm of Flesh, but in the living GOD*; for it is written, *Wo unto them that go down into* Egypt *for help*; It is also written, *Blessed be the Man that trusteth in the LORD, and whose hope the LORD is, for he shall be as a Tree that is planted by the Waters, which spreadeth out her roots by the Rivers, and shall not feel when the heat cometh, but her leaf shall be green, and shall not care for the year of drowth, neither shall cease from yielding Fruit, yea, Blessed shall he be in his going out, and in his coming in*; for the *LORD* shall bless him with an everlasting Blessing, which shall be better than the Blessing of his Ancestors: Therefore O King, be Valiant for the Truth upon Earth, and give not thy Strength unto others, nor thy Power and Wisdom to Men, but serve the *LORD with all thy Strength, and with all thy Might*, for this the *LORD* requirs of thee, and give it not to Men to serve their evil ends.

And in order to the carrying on of this great Work which I have been treating of, my humble Request to the King is, that he would be pleased to take Christ for his Example in this thing, to with-draw often from the Multitude, and to retire into his own Soul, there to attend

tend upon the *Lord* very deligently in Fasting and Prayer, asking Counsel of the *LORD* how to order his Affairs as may be most for the Glory of *GOD*, and then *The GOD of Peace make the King perfect in all good Works, to do His most acceptable Will, working in him that which is pleasant in His sight, to whom be Everlasting Praise for evermore, Amen.*

From one that is of no Sect or gathered People whatsoever, yet I love the good in all, but the evil I abhor; so I walk alone as a Woman forsaken; I have fellowship with them that Lived in Caves, and in Dens, and desolate places of the Earth, of whom the World was not worthy.

J. W.

Postscript.

O Ye Church and People of *England*! what did you send for King *William* out of his own Country, and turn out King *James*? You said it was to set up the *Christian Religion*, and to Establish it: Why is it not done? What have you been a doing all this while, making provision to set up your selves? For the *Christian Religion* is not set up: you know what that is, *To forsake the Devil and all his Works, the Pomps and Vanities of this wicked World, and all the sinful Lusts of the Flesh, and to keep GOD's Will and Commandments, and to walk in the same all the days of your Lives.* So you see the Christian Religion shews you what the Devil's Works are, that they are *the Pomps and the Vanities of this wicked World,*

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and the sinful Lusts of the Flesh. And Christ's command is, *Learn of me, for I am Meek and Lowly, and you shall find Rest to your Souls:* And Christ's command is, *Love your Enemies, do good to them that hate you:* And Christ's command is, *Let your Light so shine, that men may see your good Works, and glorifie your heavenly Father:* These are the Commands of Christ, with all the rest that I have been treating of. And these are the Vows you have vowed in the Name of GOD, in your Baptism, *To forsake the Devil and all his Works, the vain Pomps and Glory of the World, with all the Covetous Desires of the same, the Carnal Desires of the Flesh,* saying, *I will not follow, nor be led by them: I forsake them all:* This is your Promise. Therefore, oh ye Church and People of *England,* perform your Vows which you have vowed to the GOD of Heaven, and put into practice what you have promised the LORD; but if you will not, then will it appear to all the World, that you did not all this to set up the *Christian Religion,* but to set up your selves, which if you do, GOD will pull you down; for saith the *LORD, Them that Honours me I will Honour: but they that despise Me shall be despised,* 1 Sam. 2.

And oh ye Church and People of *England,* I am to acquaint you, that the last Lord Mayors Day I bore a heavy burden for your *Feasting:* The *LORD* calls for *Fasting,* and you go to *Feasting:* so that ye are guilty of the same Iniquity that your fore-Fathers were, for said *Isaiah* the Prophet in that day, *Did the LORD GOD of Host call into Weeping and Mourning, and Baldness, and to girding with Sack-cloth; but behold Joy and Gladness, slaying Oxen and killing Sheep, eating Flesh and drinking Wine, Eating and Drinking, for to morrow we shall dye:* That was all that presumptious Generation valued, either the command of the LORD,

or

or His just Judgments, to make a mock at that weighty Message; and yea do the same in your Actions, breaking Christ's commands, who said, *When thou makest a Dinner or Supper, call not thy Friends, nor thy rich Neighbours, lest they bid thee again: But when thou makest a Feast, call the Poor and the Distressed, for they cannot Recompence thee again, but thou shalt be Recompenced at the Resurrection of the Just.* So remember your Vows which ye have vowed, oh ye Church and People! to keep GOD's *holy Will and Commandments, and to walk in the same all the dayes of your Lives.* And now, oh ye Churches and Inhabitants of *England* of all sorts and Sects, be it known unto you, that thus far I am clear of your Blood by performing my Service to GOD, and my Duty to my Neighbours, whom I desire the welfare of as my own Soul; yea, I can call Heaven and Earth to witness, that this is my end, even your Salvation, which will be more to you then all earthly Crowns.

And that this Message to you may prove so effectual by the Power of GOD, that you together with me in the Humility of our Souls, may cast our selves with all Self-interest at the Feet of Christ Jesus, as a second *Mary Magdalen*, washing His Feet with our Tears, and wiping them with the Hairs of our Heads, that our cries may pierce through the Heavens to the Throne of his Grace, to move His holy and glorious MAJESTY to be merciful to us, and this poor Nation, that it may not be made an utter Desolation for the Sins of them that live therein.

Your Friend, ready to serve you to the utmost of my Power according to the Will of GOD.

East-sheen, near *Mortlock*, the 2d of the 10th Month, 1689.

J. Whitrowe.